



OVERVIEW

Multiple phases and maintenance of the project will occur over many years.

Phase I began in fall 2010.

Planned and coordinated utilizing in-depth scientific research.

Various methods of vegetation treatments have been implemented to:

- 1. Protect against wildfires
- 2. Enhance wildlife habitat
- 3. Improve the riparian ecosystem
- 4. Restore native plant communities

Wildfire protection includes thinning dense tamarisk trees adjacent to recreation sites, restoration areas, and existing native vegetation stands.

Wildlife habitat enhancement incorporates clearing dense tamarisk for wildlife to access the river and improving forage plant cover (forbs, grasses, and shrubs).

Riparian ecosystem improvement consists of increasing vegetative diversity along banks and restoring historical river system hydrological processes.

Plant community restoration achieved by planting native grasses, shrubs, and trees in locations where tamarisk has been removed.

GOALS

- Restore and maintain ecosystem health of the Dolores River area.
- Establish and maintain fuel breaks for protection of restoration areas, native vegetation stands, and recreational sites.
- The overall management goal for tamarisk is eradication enabling native plants to become competitive and sustainable.





TREATMENTS

- Chipping
- Mow and Seed
- Thin, Pile, and Burn
- Revegetation
- Herbicide

HISTORY OF TAMARISK

Tamarisk is a tree species native to Asia. It was sold in North America as an ornamental/gardening plant during the late 1800's and 1900's. Later it was planted along stream banks for stabilization and erosion control. The plants escaped from cultivated areas and became established on the banks of streams and rivers throughout the western United States.

An aggressive invader, tamarisk crowds out native plants, degrades wildlife habitat, and dramatically reduces stream flows. Its dense foliage also blocks wildlife access to rivers and streams.

In an effort to control the spread of tamarisk the tamarisk leaf beetle (*Diorhabda elongata beetle*) was introduced in 2004 along the banks of the Colorado River near Moab by the Utah Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands and the Grand County Weed Department. The tamarisk leaf beetle is a natural biological control agent; it defoliates the invasive tree by eating its leaves. Like the tamarisk, the beetle is native to Asia. Twenty years of analysis has demonstrated that the beetles feed exclusively on tamarisk. Tamarisk plants, while able to produce new leaves from root reserves, begin dying after several years of repeated defoliation.

Accumulations of dead tamarisk trees will stay in place for many years unless they are removed by mechanical means or natural disturbance such as a flood or wildfire.

Tamrisk Leaf Beetle



Beetle infested tamarisk trees (browned out)



Partners and Collaboration for the

Dolores Tamarisk Removal and

Riparian Restoration Project

Dolores River Restoration Partnership
Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative

Rim to Rim Restoration

Tamarisk Coalition

National Wild Turkey Federation

Arbor Day Foundation

Marathon Oil Corporation

Visit

www.UtahFireInfo.gov

other on-going projects

BLM, Canyon Country Fire Zone, Moab Field Office

